



East Cowes Town Council

Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6R
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Minutes of a meeting of **East Cowes Town Council** held remotely by Zoom on **Thursday 15TH April 2021 at 7pm.**

Present

Chair: Cllr Rann (Mayor)

Councillors: Palin, Packham, Lloyd, Hendry, Webster, Walker

Clerk: S Chilton **Assistant Clerk:** C Gale

Also present: 9 members of the public

Public Forum

- Diana Conyers stated that she is currently attending town and parish council meetings as Chair of IWALC.

Meeting opened at 7.00 p.m.

37/21 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Stephen Hull did not attend the meeting.

38/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Love.

39/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3.1 Cllr Hendry declared of a non-pecuniary interest as the IW Ward Councillor for Whippingham and Osborne. Cllr Palin declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Floating Bridge Stakeholders and Engineers Group.

3.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

40/21 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on **Thursday 18th March** were agreed and signed.

Resolved: To agree and sign the minutes of 18th March.

41/21 FLOATING BRIDGE

The Clerk read out a short update from IW Council. The IW Council is awaiting dates for mediation to begin with the designer and boat builder. The service has operated at 97.5% between January 1st and March 31st, 2021. It was noted that the Floating Bridge had been out of service again recently due to a frayed prow cable. Jane Tyler from IW Council will be advised of new Town Council representatives for the Floating Bridge User Group following the first meeting of the new council following the election next month.

42/21 VOLUNTARY SUPPORT HUB & VACCINATION REPORT

6.1 & 6.2 The Clerk read out a report from Michael Paler. The vaccination programme has been very successful. The Town Hall may be needed for second vaccinations for some sections of the community.

43/21 FINANCES

7.1 The payments made by Direct Debit and BACS were approved and ratified. The clerk confirmed that the CCTV payment is made on a monthly basis.

7.2 The bank reconciliation was not available. It will be presented at the Facilities Projects and Events Committee on 22nd April.

Resolved: To agree and ratify payments made by Direct Debit and BACS.

44/21 PLAY EQUIPMENT

The Council considered a report by the Facilities Officer about junior gym equipment for the Esplanade play area which had been agreed at the F,P&E meeting in March.

Resolved: To purchase 2 junior exercise bicycles and one cross trainer with 2 rotators, 2 bicycles and 1 side stepper at a cost of £6812.00 excluding VAT plus carriage.

45/21 GRANT APPLICATION

9.1 & 9.2 The Council considered a grant application from East Cowes Town Crafters for £867.66 to produce an exhibition of scenes of people in the town following the year of covid lockdown. Photographs will be used to produce painting by numbers kits, which will be completed by members of the community and displayed in an exhibition over a weekend in the Town Hall in the autumn. A request was made for dispensation of hall charges for the exhibition.

Resolved: To agree the grant for £867.66 and a dispensation of the Town Hall hire charges for the exhibition.

46/21 REPORTS

10.1 Clerk's report

The Clerk read out a report from John Truswell, Senior Advisor at Natural England. The publication of the proposed East Cowes to Wootton Bridge section of the Coastal Path has been delayed until later winter 2021/22. All other proposed sections were published on 18th March 2020. They have to be approved by the Secretary of State before the public can have access. The Connect 4 Communities grant of £5180 has now been distributed to those in need. The distribution of the CESD Fund is ongoing. There are regular meetings with Kay Smith of Community Action IW and Laura Reid from the Youth Service. A letter was received from Hayley Skinner, the new chief fundraiser for the Ellen MacArthur Trust. Summer trips will be able to go ahead for young people in 2021. The Town Hall boiler replacement is complete. As this was the last Full Council meeting before the election the Clerk thanked all the councillors for their contributions over the last 4 years.

10.2 Councillors reports

Cllr Peter Lloyd addressed the Council about his involvement in the community of East Cowes and his times serving as a town councillor and mayor over the years from its formation in 1997. He thanked the Council for all the support he had received. Commenting on what the town council has achieved over the years, he observed that one person can whistle a symphony but it takes a whole orchestra to play it. He was looking forward to his retirement.

There were no councillor reports owing to purdah.

47/21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that it is in the public interest that the press and public are excluded. (1960 Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act s1 (2)).

The Council considered staffing and contractual matters.

Signed:

Dated:

The meeting closed at 8.04pm